

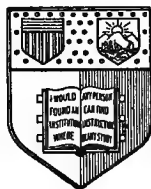
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THE WORK OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY FOR AGRICULTURE.

*Address by President Schurman to the College of Agriculture,
February 19th, 1902.*

I find there is a good deal of misunderstanding in regard to what Cornell University is doing for agriculture. I have a severe letter before me in which the critic says that some of his friends "point out the large amounts of money that Cornell is getting from [the] federal and state governments and then ask, what is she doing for agriculture in return." The letter concludes thus: "The farmers see great preparations made to receive all others, and comparatively nothing for the farmer, when they say the leading idea that made Cornell possible was the aiding of agriculture."

These are very grave assertions. If correct, Cornell University is guilty of a breach of trust; and its officers should be called to account. If incorrect, it should be easy to refute them.

I propose to lay the facts before you. And following the points of the damnatory letter I have cited I will examine, first, the origin of Cornell University and the ideas that governed it; secondly, the amount of money received by Cornell from the federal and state governments; and, thirdly, the service rendered by Cornell to agricultural education and the advancement of the farmer's interests.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Here in a few words is the history of the origin of Cornell University in its relation to the congressional land grant of 1862 and subsequent appropriation of 1890, including in the words of the acts the object of that legislation.

By the Morrill Act of July 2, 1862, Congress enacted that there should be granted to the several states certain amounts of public land, from the sale of which there should be established a perpetual fund, "the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated . . . to the endowment, support and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, *without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts.*" The provisions of this act were accepted by New York State whereupon there was handed over to the State Comptroller, New York's share of the congressional land script. The State legislature then passed an act (April 27, 1865) establishing Cornell University and appropriating to it the income from the sale of the script in the State's possession; and providing in the Charter of the University that "the leading object of the corporation hereby created shall be to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, including military tactics, . . . But such other branches of science and knowledge may be embraced in the plan of instruction and investigation pertaining to the University as the trustees may deem useful and proper." The College Land Script Fund whose income was thus appropriated to Cornell University amounts to \$688,576.12. The State, as guardian of the fund, has turned it into the State treasury,—having issued to Cornell University a certificate of indebtedness on which it pays an annual interest at the rate of five per cent. amounting to \$34,428.80. This is applied to "instruction in such branches as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, etc."

Some years later Congress saw that the provision made for the support of the colleges established under the Morrill Act of 1862 was not sufficient and accordingly, by the second Morrill Act of August 30, 1890, it was enacted that there be "appropriated to each state for the more complete endowment and maintenance of colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts established under the provisions of the federal act of July 2, 1862, the sum of \$15,000," to be annually increased by \$1,000 until the sum of \$25,000 was reached, "and the amount thereafter to be paid to each state and territory shall be \$25,000 to be applied only to instruction *in agriculture, the mechanic arts,*

the English language and the various branches of mathematical, physical, natural and economic science, with special reference to their application in the industries of life, and to the facilities for such instruction." This congressional appropriation is now \$25,000 annually.

There is, therefore, available for "instruction in agriculture, the mechanic arts, the English language and the various branches of mathematical, physical, natural and economic science" \$59,428.80 received from the bounty of the United States. This is all that Cornell University receives from the federal government for any purpose. To prevent misapprehension I should perhaps add that the Federal Agricultural Experiment Station, for which there is an annual appropriation of \$13,500, is located at Cornell. But while the University lends its buildings and grounds and gives freely the services of its administrative officers for the conduct of the experiments and the management of the finances of the station, it gets no financial return, and not a cent of the Experiment Station funds can be used for purposes of instruction. Cornell has, therefore, but \$59,428.80 annually from the United States; and the laws enacted by congress prescribe that it shall be used only for instruction and facilities "in agriculture, the mechanic arts, the English language and the various branches of mathematical, physical, natural and economic science."

EIGHT HUNDRED FREE N. Y. SCHOLARS AT CORNELL.

In return for the federal land grant Cornell University gives free instruction, in all departments, to four students annually from each of the assembly districts of the State, making in all 600 free students annually.

It gives free instruction also to all agricultural students, of whom at present nearly 200 are enrolled. Thus Cornell University is a benefactor of the State of New York to the extent of conferring upon it annually free instruction for 800 students. On the average it costs a large and well-equipped university like Cornell about \$300 for the education of each student. *Cornell, therefore, annually gives to the people of the State of New York not much less than \$250,000.*

COST OF AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT CORNELL.

The entire amount received from the United States—\$59,428.80 annually—does not begin to provide instruction even in "such branches of learning as are related to agriculture" alone. The present curriculum of the College of Agriculture embraces courses in technical agriculture, botany, entomology, zoology, English, chemistry, physics, drawing, physiology, dairy husbandry, political economy, and horticulture, besides a year or more of electives. The cost of giving instruction in these subjects for the present academic year, 1901-1902, may be seen from the following table :

Salaries of professors, etc., in subjects enumerated.....	\$ 88,975 00
Appropriations to said departments for apparatus, etc..	32,773 77
Estimated cost of elective courses.....	25,000 00
	\$146,748 77

As to most of the courses included in the agricultural curriculum, I think the departments giving them would need, if they were to be first-class, to be about as large and efficient as they now are at Cornell, even if you had not a university but an agricultural college alone. But the departments of English, chemistry, physics, political economy, and drawing are larger with us than the demands of an agricultural college alone would require. The aggregate cost of the annual maintenance of these departments is \$81,375. I propose to charge only half of that to the College of Agriculture; that is to say, the total annual cost of instruction in agriculture (\$146,748.77) should be reduced by \$40,687.50, which would leave a net cost of \$106,061.27. To this, however, should be added something for library (of which the annual cost at Cornell is \$34,390.25) and other general equipment of which agricultural students freely avail themselves, besides heating, lighting, repairs, etc. I consider \$35,000 annually a low estimate for these objects. If this be added to \$106,061.27, *the total cost of maintaining the Agricultural College at Cornell University is found to be \$141,061.27.*

NEW YORK STATE WORK AT CORNELL.

Towards the maintenance of this Agricultural College by Cornell University, the State of New York does not contribute one cent. It

did appropriate a few years ago \$50,000 for a Dairy building, which was intended to form one wing of a great State Hall of Agriculture. But that Hall still remains unbuilt.

I should mention the \$35,000 granted to the College of Agriculture by chapter 430 of the laws of 1899, which can be applied only to the special object for which it was granted, and that is the promotion of agricultural knowledge throughout the State by university extension methods. The College is happy to aid the State in so useful and helpful a work, but the College itself receives no benefit from it. For the sake of completeness I will add that the State maintains at Cornell University a New York State College of Forestry, for which it makes an annual appropriation of \$10,000, and a New York State College of Veterinary Medicine, for which it makes an annual appropriation of \$25,000. *No other appropriation of any kind, either for the University or for State institutions located here, is received by Cornell from the State of New York.* All the rest of the revenues of the University is derived from private endowments.

WORK OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Now let us see what the College of Agriculture at Cornell is doing for agricultural education and for the promotion of the interest of farmers. I include the University extension work mentioned above and also the work in the experiment station.

Since the College of Agriculture was established it has given instruction to more than sixteen hundred students in residence at Ithaca and it has become one of the foremost colleges of its kind in the United States. Without boasting, I think it may be said that *it is recognized as the leader among agricultural colleges* and has drawn students, both for advanced and undergraduate work, from nearly every state in the union and from many foreign countries. Students, who can pass the entrance examinations may take a four years' course or a two years' course or a one year's course. But those who cannot pass examinations are admitted to a short winter course, especially designed to meet the needs of young men working for the other nine months on the farms.

There are in attendance at the present time some two hundred students in the various courses. Tuition is free in all courses.

During the last five years there have been from ten to twenty graduate students in the University each year who have selected both their major and minor subjects or their major subject in the College of Agriculture. This indicates the opinion that students from other colleges have of the work being done here.

In addition to the students in residence, *we are teaching a vast number of students scattered throughout the state by means of correspondence courses.* This work is for the promotion of agricultural knowledge throughout the State. There are enrolled in the Farmers' Reading Course department 30,000 students; in the Farmers' Wives' Reading Course 8,000 students; in the Junior Naturalists' Club about 30,000 pupils organized into 1,700 clubs; in the Home Nature Study Course about 1,500 teachers.

It will be seen that the College of Agriculture has extended its work over a wide field and is reaching a vast number of the rural population. It may be said that in addition to the persons reached as enumerated many hundred more get instruction incidentally. It may also be said that the work of University Extension is carried on along University lines. Lessons are sent to be studied and examination questions answered and returned. This necessitates a vast amount of work that cannot be tabulated in any way except by stating the number of students in these various University Extension Courses.

Nearly five hundred farmers have conducted experiments on their own farms under the careful supervision of members of the teaching force. This is in addition to the investigations carried on at the University. There is scarcely a subject connected with fruit or field crops that has not been studied from close range in a majority of the counties of the State.

I cannot state accurately how many lectures before farmers' organizations have been delivered since the College was established, but they certainly number several thousand. In addition to all this, *the College has done a vast work in helping the farmers out of their difficulties by personal correspondence. From five to ten thousand letters per year in answer to questions are written by the staff.* This work alone is a great tax upon the College, but the benefits derived are so great that the practice

still continues of answering, to the best of our ability, all questions related to agriculture, directly or remotely.

The Experiment Station, a department of the College of Agriculture, has published 196 bulletins, in editions averaging more than 20,000 each, and fourteen annual reports. *Whenever there is a serious outbreak of insects or fungi, a specialist is dispatched immediately to make investigations and to help overcome the difficulty.* It is becoming well known throughout the State, that at any time the farmers may command, and they do command, the attention and the scientific knowledge of the entire force, with the view of securing relief. Every department of scientific and practical agriculture is represented on the staff, therefore we are able to give assistance in time of need in any activity related to agriculture.

Our agricultural students have gone to all parts of the State and carried with them the light of science to aid the farmer in his arduous and difficult, though independent and noble calling. Our professors, by their investigations on the diseases that attack grains and fruits and flocks and herds, have saved, I believe, millions of dollars to the State. *Did not the Cornell method of combating the pear-sylla save over a million dollars to a single county? Have not Cornell methods of orcharding added noticeably to the prosperity of our farmers and fruit growers?* I have at least been told so, on what I regard as expert authority. And I believe that the farmers of the State hold in grateful honor the names of Professors Roberts, Bailey, Caldwell, Law, Comstock, Atkinson, Wing, Slingerland, Craig and their newer fellow-laborers at Cornell who are devoting their lives to bringing science to the aid of the farmers as the engineering faculties have brought science to the aid of the manufacturing classes. The President of the University has always co-operated with them to the utmost of his ability; for, having been brought up on a farm, he feels peculiar and most earnest sympathy with this division of the University. And what the President and Faculty have recommended the Board of Trustees have, to the utmost of their power, authorized.

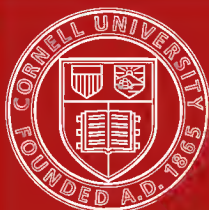
It must, however, be borne in mind that, *apart from the funds heretofore mentioned, all the property and endowments of Cornell University have come from the gifts of individual benefactors;*

and nearly all these benefactors have designated the objects for which their gifts were intended. The University has sacredly observed the obligations thus imposed upon it. No one has given for agriculture; apparently no one will. The University funds are all mortgaged for the existing instruction in agriculture, mechanic arts, and the other divisions of the University. A big Hall is needed for the work of the College of Agriculture. Will not the State provide it?

Professor Robertson, Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner of the Dominion of Canada, after a three days' visit to Cornell writes as follows:

"I do not know of another great University that is doing the same sort of work. Institutions of this kind generally confine their activities to the professional and scholastic classes, but here is one that is bringing its culture and its wealth of knowledge based on careful research, to the help of the common people in their practical, every-day work."

We want to make and keep the Agricultural College at Cornell the best in the United States. Other states have furnished buildings, equipment and facilities for their agricultural colleges by legislative appropriations. Within recent years Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin have each voted from \$200,000 to \$300,000 for that purpose. We appeal to New York State to follow their example, and the exhibit I have made shows, I think conclusively the merits of the Agricultural College at Cornell.



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